Provision of FAX PCOs in Punjab

5423. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under considerotton to pijpvide FAX|PCOs, alongwith STD|PCOs, in the country particularly in Punjab;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal under consideration to allow STD PCOs franchisees in the country to provide FAX facility alongwih STD PCOs.

(c) DoeS not arise in view of reply to (a) & (b) above.

स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों को टेलीफोन कनेक्शन

5424. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों को फोन कनेक्शन देने तथा बिलों के भुगतान में कुछ रियायत दी गई है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो राज्यवार कितने स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों ने इस से लाभ उठाया है ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) जी हां स्वतंत्रता सेनानी गैर-ग्रो वाई टी/एस डब्लू एस श्रेणी के अंतर्गत टेलीफोन कनेक्शन हेतु अपनी मांग दर्ज करवा सकते हैं जिसके अंतर्गत टेलीफोन कनेक्शन लगाते में "तत्काल" श्रेणी के बाद सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता दी जाती है । "एस डब्यू एस' श्रेणी के अंतर्गत कोई संस्थापन प्रभार नहीं लिया जाता तथा उपभोक्ता से सामान्य किराया-प्रभारों का केवल आधा खर्च लिया जाता है ।

(ख) छः सर्किलों के बारे में सूचना संलग्न विवरण में दी गई है । (सीधे रखिए) शेष सर्किलों से संबद्ध सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है तथा सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

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Committee for Restructuring of Telecom Department

5425. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had set up a committee to sugegst restructuring the Deportment of Telecommiunications;

(b) if so, the broad features of the recommendations made by this Committee, particularly Che sweeping changes in the telecom hierarchy; and

(c) what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the committee broadly relate to Steanalinrag administrative, technical and financial

set-ups at the Headquarters of the Department, rationalisation of distribution of work and channel of submision of papers on administrative, finance and technical sides at the Headquarters keeping in view the need for distancing policy making functions from operational functions in the context of implemen-taiton Notional Telecom Policy announced by the Government-

, (c) , No .final decision has been taken in this regard.

Reduction of *Tariff* Charge for Local and STD Calls

5426. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMM UNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tariff charged for both the local and STD calls would be redu ced;

(b) whether it is as fact that new telecom technology reduces' the use of manpower; and

(c) the details as to how Government determine the cost of telecom service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No such proposal is under consderation.

(b) Yes, Sir. However three will be no reduction in manpower in Depart ment of Telecommunications, on acc ount of large scale expansions proposed;

' (c) The costs of telecom service are "determined on the basis of expenses on maintenance and operations, and interest and depreciation on the amount f capital invested.

New Distribution System for Telephone Directories

5427. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY:: Will the Minister of COMM UNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have deviled a new system for delivery of telephone directories;

(b) if so, what system is proposed to be adopted in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) whether directory information would be updated every year?

THE MINISTER. OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The existing system of distribution of the directories by the Department would continue for Andhra Pradesh Circle.

(c) The directory information is being updated regularly.

Amendment in the Indian Port Office Act and Regulations

5428. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering to amend the Indian Post Office Act and Regulations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the amendments Government propose to bring about in the Act and the Rules; and

(d) the benefits that will accrue to the general public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Need for changes in the Act has arisen in the context of emerging trends in communication by mail in the country and other socio-economic factors.

(e) and (d) Amendments to the Act, are under consideration in the Government .